

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been canceled. Claims 10-17 are pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 10. Applicant has canceled claim 3. As a result, it is believed that this objection is now moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant has canceled claim 1 and amended claim 10 by changing “means” to “--device--”. Applicant believes that the rejection is now deemed moot and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Applicant submits that claim 10 is now in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Karasawa in view of Wright et al. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Karasawa and further in view of Yuki. Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, it is believed that this rejection is now deemed moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 10-17 are allowed.

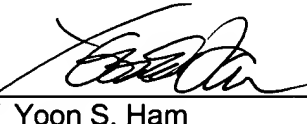
The Examiner stated that claims 3-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 3-9.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-17 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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